



*'Another fabulous resource from 10ofThose to encourage young people to dig into the Bible and get to know Jesus, their King. Chris Ranson has used wonderful illustrations, dry humour and simple language to help teenagers engage with life-changing theology that is applied to their lives.'*

**NICK JACKMAN,**  
**DIRECTOR OF CONTAGIOUS**

*'In an increasingly biblically illiterate and post-truth age, our young people are searching for meaning and hungry for authenticity. Relevant, creative and faithful ways of unpacking the story of Jesus are desperately needed. Dig Into Matthew is beautifully crafted, rich in deep biblical explanation and I am delighted to commend it to you. Chris Ranson unpacks the gospel with humour, ingenuity and passion. This book is a gift to a generation.'*

**PHIL KNOX,**  
**HEAD OF MISSION TO YOUNG ADULTS, EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE**



*'Dig Into Matthew will help teens do what it says on the tin – delve into the depths of Matthew's gospel and get to God's promised King. Its chatty humour makes it accessible, the accompanying illustrations bring clarity and simplicity, and the questions encourage engagement and action. Altogether, a great resource!'*

**TAMAR POLLARD,**  
**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, BEDFORD**



# DIG INTO MATTHEW



A DAILY BIBLE STUDY

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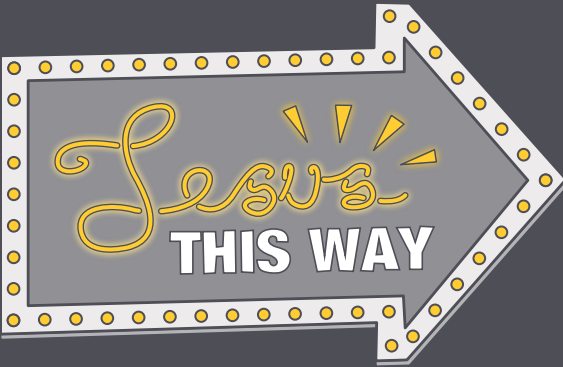
**CHRIS RANSON**

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To my parents





# INTRODUCTION

God's people had been waiting. They had been waiting a really long time. In fact, imagine being stuck in a traffic jam, your phone has run out of battery and now you need to make a rest stop – that's the kind of waiting the Israelites were doing. But why? What were they waiting for? Well, that's the wrong question ... the real question is who were they waiting for?

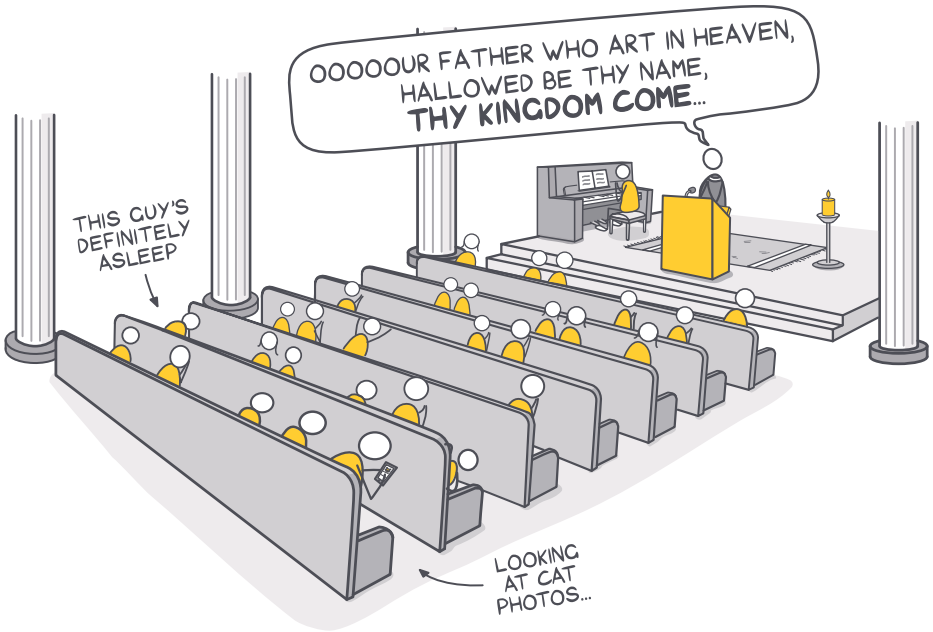
Thousands of years before, God had promised His people a King; a special King who would start a new, special Kingdom. This King would be so powerful that His Kingdom would last forever and nobody would be able to defeat Him. One day, around 2000 years ago, that King finally arrived. Thankfully, when this happened Matthew was around to write down what happened – and it's not what you might think!

There's a long journey ahead as we dig into Matthew together. You may have lots of questions like: 'What did this King do?' 'Why did God come to earth as a human?' And 'why on earth is John the Baptist eating locusts?'

Not only will you be getting your hands dirty with some of the nitty gritty bits of the Bible, but you will also get to know this promised King for yourself – and trust me, you won't want to miss out on that!

God speaks to us through His word and the book of Matthew is no different. It is my prayer that as you take time each day to read the passage and use this book that God's word will seem more true to you than ever before, and His King more precious.

## A JOURNEY BEGINS



Wow! Did you really just pray that? ‘Your Kingdom come?’ That is a huge thing to just mumble along with in church! Have you ever thought what it really means?

### THERE IS A KINGDOM

Seems obvious now you read it, but it can be easy to miss: God has a Kingdom! It’s not a physical place like the United Kingdom or the Kingdom of Tonga ... you can’t catch a flight there. Instead, this Kingdom is made up of every person who lives like God wants them to.

But a Christian doesn’t get a passport to prove they are in God’s Kingdom. So how can you tell if you’re in or not? It comes down to one simple fact: how do you respond to the King?

### THERE IS A KING

Whoops! Nearly forgot! God’s Kingdom has a King! If you pray for God’s Kingdom to come, you’re not only praying that you want things on earth to be like God wants them to be (peaceful, fair, loving, giving glory to Him) but you are also praying that God’s King will come!

This King came once before and He turned the whole world upside down. Matthew wrote what happened in his history book, but that is not the end of the story. If you keep reading, you will see that God's King is right now sitting on a throne in heaven and He has promised to come again. This means that *in the future*, the Kingdom will come. When that happens all evil and rebellion against the King will be defeated. But right now, amazingly, it means that anyone in God's Kingdom has a powerful King working for their best – the King of the universe is on their side, today!

## DOESN'T THAT CHANGE THINGS?

God's King, the most powerful King in the world, wants the best for you. (Yes you, reading this book!) There are always other books you can read, other things you could be doing, friends you could be seeing – but why not set aside a little time each day so we can read Matthew's incredible true story? The King of Kings is calling you: do you want to hear what He has to say?



## QUESTIONS

- If you could meet the King of the universe - what questions would you ask Him? Write them down and pray to God about them.
- As we go through Matthew, make a note of any answers you get.





# AN ORIGIN STORY



mighty kings (like David) and also from everyday normal people (like Ruth).

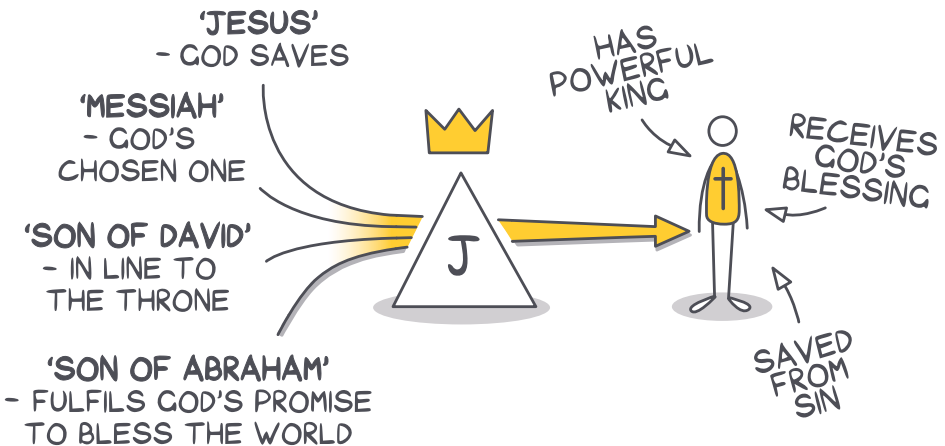
For the Jews, who Matthew was writing to, this was really important. You see, God had made big promises to care for His chosen people throughout history. Starting with Abraham (name number one!) these promises were to be passed down through generations of God’s people until they would one day reach the ‘Messiah’, the one chosen person to make all these promises come true – He is kind of a big deal.

## MORE THAN A LIST (1:1-17)

Think lists are boring? Think again! Matthew starts his action-packed true story about Jesus with a long list of names called a ‘genealogy’. Matthew isn’t a nerd – he is using this list to tell us that Jesus descended from

## WHAT’S IN A NAME? (1:1)

In his first line, Matthew manages to squeeze in *four* different names for Jesus, each with their own meaning. Is he just showing off? Nope! Each of



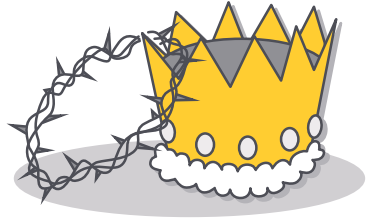
these titles tells us something very important about Jesus.

As we find out in Matthew 1:21, 'Jesus' means 'the Lord saves'. So when someone says 'Jesus', we are reminded that God saves His people through something that Jesus did (John 3:16, Romans 6:23).

'Messiah' is the same name as 'Christ'. These titles mean 'Chosen One'. When God made promises to His people, He also chose one individual to make the promises happen.

'Son of David' reminds us that Jesus is a direct descendent of King David, the greatest King in Jewish history. Things went well when David was in charge, but things will be perfect when King Jesus is on the throne.

'Son of Abraham' takes us back to the promise (or the covenant) that God made to bless all the people of the earth through Abraham. The amazing promises God made to Abraham will only ever come about through Jesus. (You can see these promises in Genesis 12:1-3; 17:3-7.)



### THE UNASHAMED KING

If you research this list of names, you will notice that many of them are utter rascals! Jacob was a scam artist, the brothers of Judah were bullies, Rahab was a prostitute and even David was a murderer; yet God used all these people to bring about the arrival of Jesus. King Jesus is not ashamed to welcome broken or bad people into His Kingdom. Quite the opposite! This genealogy tells us that God's promises of love and care are open to *anyone* who comes to Him through the King.

#### QUESTIONS

- The Old Testament promises that God made to love and care become real in Jesus. How can you get to experience these promises?
- Look again at the four titles of Jesus. Pick one and thank God for what it means to you.



## GOD WITH US!

**A VIRGIN GIVES BIRTH? (1:18-21)**

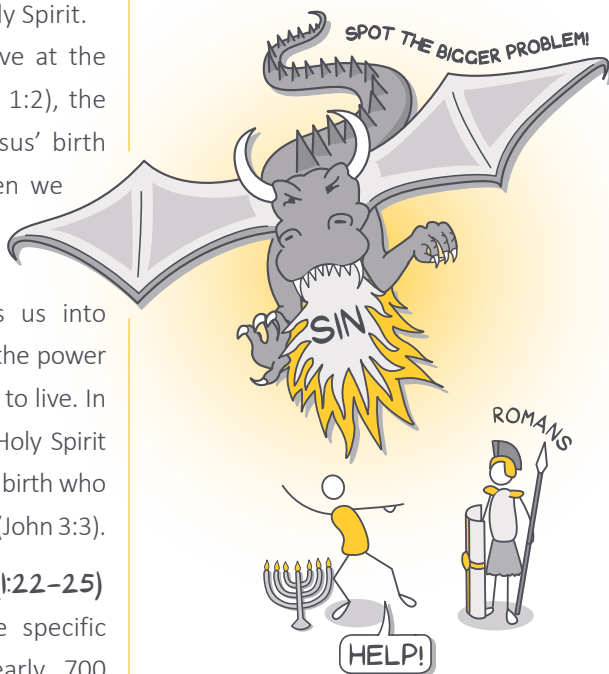
Quite the shocker! Mary became pregnant, even though she had never been romantically involved with a man. This miracle has never happened before in human history and will never happen again. Matthew tells us this child did not come about in any normal way – this was a miracle by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was active at the creation of the world (Gen. 1:2), the Holy Spirit was active at Jesus' birth (Mat. 1:18), and today when we become a Christian, it is the Holy Spirit who makes us new people; He brings us into God's Kingdom and gives us the power to live the way God wants us to live. In other words, it is the same Holy Spirit who works a miracle at Jesus' birth who makes Christians 'born again' (John 3:3).

**PROPHECY FULFILLED (1:22-25)**

Isn't it amazing that these specific events were predicted nearly 700 years beforehand? It's hard enough to predict the weather where I live in Scotland (and the only options are rain or drizzle) never mind the birth of God's chosen King. But Matthew makes sure we realise this was all planned out

when in verse 22 he uses his trademark saying: 'All this took place to fulfil ...' God had planned from the beginning of time that one day He would live closely with His people. Our sin stops this from happening, but God had a plan to make the impossible possible – He would send this 'Immanuel' Jesus.



As the angel told Joseph in verse 21, Jesus will save His people from their biggest enemy. The Jews thought their enemy was the powerful Romans; many wanted Jesus to be a mighty warrior King who would kick the Roman army



out of the country. But Jesus came to save us from a much bigger enemy: the sin that separates us from God.

### AN ADOPTED CHILD (1:25)

If you have a keen eye, you may have noticed that Matthew's genealogy in 1:1–17 tells us Joseph was directly descended from King David. This means Joseph's son would inherit the right to become King of God's people. But Jesus was only the *biological* son of Mary, not Joseph, so how can He rightfully become King? He had to be adopted! What Matthew carefully records in 1:25 is that Joseph formally gave Jesus his name, and in the ancient world this legally meant the child was now Joseph's. (Thankfully, when your mates at school give you a nickname today, they haven't adopted you.)

## READ MATTHEW 1:18–25



**'COVENANT'** A PROMISE THAT GOD MAKES WITH PEOPLE SO THAT WE MAY KNOW HIM. IN THE OLD COVENANT PEOPLE NEEDED SACRIFICES AND TEMPLE WORSHIP TO APPROACH GOD. HOWEVER, THIS ALL POINTED TO JESUS.

JESUS ESTABLISHED THE NEW COVENANT WHERE HIS SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS IS THE ONLY SACRIFICE WE NEED. HIS PEOPLE (CHRISTIANS) ARE THE TEMPLE WHERE GOD DWELLS AND WHERE WE CAN WORSHIP.

EPHESIANS 2:21–22

### QUESTIONS

- If you're a Christian, God is with you at all times.
- How will knowing this help you when you face hard times?
  - If you are a Christian and you sin, how do you think it affects the Holy Spirit who is within you?

